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Agenda item 32
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 23 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the signature by the President of the Russian Federation on 22 November 2016 of the law on the ratification of the so-called "agreement" with the Sokhumi occupation regime on the establishment of the Joint Group of Armed Forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as an official document of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 23 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 22 November 2016, the President of the Russian Federation signed the law on the ratification of the so-called "agreement" with the Sokhumi occupation regime on the establishment of the Joint Group of Armed Forces.

These kinds of provocative steps by the Russian Federation are directed towards the annexation of the occupied regions of Georgia, which is a complete disregard of the fundamental principles and norms of international law and undermines the established international order.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemns this illegal step by the Russian Federation, which represents a rude violation of the territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the sovereign State and a demonstration of aggression against Georgia.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the Russian Federation to honour the obligations undertaken and fully comply with the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, withdraw its military units from the occupied territories of Georgia and ensure the establishment of international security arrangements in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls on the international community to give a due assessment of the aggressive moves of the Russian Federation and take effective measures to avoid further aggravation of the security situation in the region.